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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

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2  
3 1. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and  
4 out of engagement with a load including in combination:

5 a main plate member having front, rear, upper and lower  
6 edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member and  
7 extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a  
8 predetermined distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending  
9 substantially from the rear edge of the main plate member to the  
10 front edge thereof, with the auxiliary plate removably attached to  
11 the main plate member; and yieldable friction material over  
12 substantially the major portions of the auxiliary plate and the  
13 portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary  
14 plate.

15  
16 2. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the  
17 yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient  
18 compressible material.

19  
20 3. A clamping plate according to Claim 2 wherein the  
21 yieldable friction material is a compressible rubber-like material.

22  
23 4. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 3 wherein the  
24 yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and  
25 the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary  
26 plate.

1 5. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 4 wherein the  
2 yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a  
3 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one  
4 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member  
5 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main  
6 plate member.

7  
8 6. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 5 wherein the  
9 thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and 1  
10 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

11  
12 7. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 6 wherein the  
13 main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

14  
15 8. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 7 further  
16 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary  
17 plate to the main plate member.

18  
19 9. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 8 wherein the  
20 auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear  
21 edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the  
22 rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the  
23 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of  
24 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose  
25 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge  
26 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

10. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

11. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 9 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel to the main plate member.

12. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 11 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum thickness of the nose piece.

13. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 12 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

14. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the main plate assembly.

15. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.

16. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 15 wherein the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.

17. The clamping plate assembly according to Claim 16 wherein the nose piece is made of aluminum with the front edge thereof tapering from the front edge of the main plate member outwardly from the main plate member to a surface located in a plane parallel to the main plate member.

18. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 17 wherein the thickness of the combination of the auxiliary plate and the yieldable friction material thereon is greater than the maximum thickness of the nose piece.

19. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 18 wherein the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and the nose piece.

20. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 13 wherein the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable friction material on the main plate assembly.

21. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 20 wherein the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main plate member.

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1 22. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 21 wherein  
2 the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 5/8" and  
3 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.

4 23. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein  
5 the main plate member and the auxiliary plate are made of aluminum.

6 24. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein  
7 the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate  
8 and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the  
9 auxiliary plate.

10 25. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 further  
11 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary  
12 plate to the main plate member.

13 26. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 1 wherein  
14 the thickness of the yieldable friction material on the portion of  
15 the main plate member is greater than the thickness of the  
16 auxiliary plate; and the thickness of the yieldable friction  
17 material on the auxiliary plate is selected to cause the exposed  
18 surface of the yieldable friction material on the auxiliary plate  
19 to be in the same plane as the exposed surface of the yieldable  
20 friction material on the main plate assembly.

1 27. A clamping plate assembly for movement laterally into and  
2 out of engagement with a load including in combination:

3 a main rectangular plate member having front, rear, upper  
4 and lower edges; an auxiliary plate overlying the main plate member  
5 and extending from the lower edge of the main plate member a short  
6 distance toward the upper edge thereof and extending substantially  
7 from the rear edge of the main plate member to the front edge  
8 thereof, the short distance being a minor portion of the distance  
9 between the lower and upper edges of the main backing plate member  
10 and with the auxiliary plate removably attached to the main plate  
11 member; and yieldable friction material attached to and covering  
12 substantially the major portion of the auxiliary plate and the  
13 portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary  
14 plate.

15 28. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein  
16 the yieldable friction material is selected to be made of resilient  
17 compressible material.

18 29. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 28 wherein  
19 the yieldable friction material is a rubber-like material having a  
20 plurality of closed spaced grooves in it extending parallel to one  
21 another between the front and lower edges of the main plate member  
22 and substantially parallel to the upper and lower edges of the main  
23 plate member.  
24  
25  
26



1 30. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 29 wherein  
2 the thickness of the yieldable friction material is between 3/8"  
3 and 1 1/4" in the portions between the grooves therein.  
4

5 31. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein  
6 the auxiliary plate has a front edge and a rear edge, with the rear  
7 edge thereof substantially terminating in the same plane as the  
8 rear edge of the main plate member and the front edge of the  
9 auxiliary plate terminating a short distance from the front edge of  
10 the main plate member, and further including a wear resistant nose  
11 piece attached to the main plate member between the front edge  
12 thereof and the front edge of the auxiliary plate.  
13

14 32. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 31 wherein  
15 the nose piece is made of wear resistant material.  
16

17 33. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 further  
18 including recessed bolts for removably attaching the auxiliary  
19 plate to the main plate member.  
20

21 34. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 33 wherein  
22 the auxiliary plate and the nose piece are removably attached to  
23 the main plate member with countersunk bolts, the exposed heads  
24 thereof being below the exposed surfaces of the auxiliary plate and  
25 the nose piece.  
26

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35. A clamping plate assembly according to Claim 27 wherein the yieldable friction material is bonded to the auxiliary plate and the portion of the main plate member not covered by the auxiliary plate.